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and wherein said soft resources comprise content information accessible by said different types of consumer electronic devices.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the instant amendment and response. Claims 1-23 remain pending in the case. Claims 1, 6, 9, 14, 17 and 22 are amended herein. No new matter has been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendments. The attachment is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent 6,353,848 by Morris, hereinafter referred to as the "Morris" reference. Applicants have reviewed the cited reference and respectfully submit that the present invention as recited in Claims 1-23 is not anticipated by Morris.

Morris and the claimed invention are very different. Applicant understands Morris to teach a method for accessing a digital image capture over a communication network. In effect, Morris teaches a method for remotely

accessing a digital camera over a network. More particularly, Morris teaches a method for providing access to a digital camera in response to a validated request for access.

In contrast, embodiments of the claimed invention are directed towards a method for operating a plurality of different types of consumer electronic devices interconnected to form a network. In particular, embodiments of the present invention as claimed provide access to connected consumer electronic devices based on an access policy. The access policy dictates the conditions under which certain services will be provided to certain users.

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to independent Claim 1 which recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to (emphasis added):

A method of operating a plurality of types of consumer electronic devices interconnected to form a network, said method comprising the steps of:

a) configuring a resource manager of said network with an access policy during network initialization;

b) receiving a service request indicating an identity of a user;

c) based on said identity; said resource manager determining whether said service request violates said access policy;

d) provided said service request is permissible, said resource manager determining whether resources of said network necessary for carrying out said service request are available; and

e) provided said resources necessary for carrying out said service request are available, said resource manager transmitting

control signals to said network causing said plurality of types of consumer electronic devices to carry out said service request.

Independent Claims 9 and 17 recite a similar limitation. Claims 2-8 which depend from independent Claim 1, Claims 10-16 which depend on independent Claim 9, and Claims 18-23 which depend from independent Claim 17 provide further recitations of the features of the present invention.

Applicant respectfully asserts that Morris in particular does not teach, disclose, or suggest a method of operating different types of consumer electronic devices as claimed. As recited in independent Claims 1, 9 and 17, the present invention is directed toward a method of operating a plurality of types of consumer electronic devices interconnected to form a network. The preamble of each independent claim specifically recites this limitation. This feature allows for providing access to different types of consumer electronic devices, such as televisions, set-top-boxes, digital video disc (DVD) players, and other devices listed on page 12, lines 6-16 of the present application.

In contrast, Morris discloses a method for accessing one particular type of electronic device, a digital camera. Specifically, Morris discloses a method for accessing files stored on a digital camera. In particular, Morris does not teach, disclose, or suggest a method of operating a plurality of different consumer electronic devices, as claimed above.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Morris in particular does not teach, disclose, or suggest a method for operating a plurality of different types of consumer electronic devices wherein a service request is granted based on an access policy, as claimed. As recited in independent Claims 1, 9 and 17, the present invention is directed toward a method for operating a plurality of types of consumer electronic devices wherein service requests are carried out based on an access policy. This feature allows for a user to pre-program a policy statement under which certain services will be provided to certain users. Upon determining a particular user (e.g., a user identifying himself), the access policy for that user is checked for compliance. For example, access to a specific consumer electronic device may be rejected based on a user exceeding a usage limit (see instant application, page 19, line 20 through page 21, line 3). As described in the specification, the access policy can be designed to comprise any number of specific policies, which can apply to any or all of the services and/or consumer electronic devices coupled to the network.

In contrast, Morris discloses a method for providing access to a digital camera based on verifying identification of a user. In particular, Morris does not teach, disclose, or suggest a method of operating a plurality of types of consumer electronic devices based on an access policy, wherein an access policy is accessed based on the identity of a user.

Applicant respectfully asserts that nowhere does Liu teach, disclose or suggest the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 9 and 17, and that these claims are thus in a condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Morris also does not show or suggest the additional claimed features of the present invention as recited in Claims 2-8 which depend from independent Claim 1, Claims 10-16 which depend from independent Claim 9, and Claims 18-23 which depend from independent Claim 17. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-8, 10-16 and 18-23 overcome the Examiner's basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and are in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-23 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

Applicants have reviewed the following references which were cited but not relied upon and do not find these reference to show or suggest the present claimed invention: US 6,286,001, US 6,014,135 and US 6,311,207.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of operating a plurality of types of consumer electronic devices interconnected to form a network, said method comprising the steps of:
 - a) configuring a resource manager of said network with an access policy during network initialization;
 - b) receiving a service request indicating an identity of a user;
 - c) based on said identity; said resource manager determining whether said service request violates said access policy;
 - d) provided said service request is permissible, said resource manager determining whether resources of said network necessary for carrying out said service request are available; and
 - e) provided said resources necessary for carrying out said service request are available, said resource manager transmitting control signals to said network causing said plurality of types of consumer electronic devices to carry out said service request.

Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

6. (Amended) A method as described in Claim 5 wherein said resources comprise hard resources and soft resources, and wherein said hard resources comprise said plurality of types of consumer electronic devices and wherein said soft resources comprise content information accessible by said plurality of types of consumer electronic devices.

Claim 9 has been amended as follows:

9. (Amended) A computer-usable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform a method of managing resources within a network including a plurality of types of consumer electronic devices interconnected to form a network, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) configuring a resource manager of said network with an access policy during network initialization;
- b) receiving a service request indicating an identity of a user;
- c) based on said identity; said resource manager determining whether said service request violates said access policy;
- d) provided said service request is permissible, said resource manager determining whether resources of said network necessary for carrying out said service request are available; and
- e) provided said resources necessary for carrying out said service request are available, said resource manager transmitting control signals to

said network causing said plurality of types of consumer electronic devices to carry out said service request.

Claim 14 has been amended as follows:

14. (Amended) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13 wherein said resources comprise hard resources and soft resources, and wherein said hard resources comprise said plurality of types of consumer electronic devices and wherein said soft resources comprise content information accessible by said plurality of types of consumer electronic devices.

Claim 17 has been amended as follows:

17. (Amended) A home server coupled to control a network of different types of consumer electronic devices, said home server comprising:

- a) means for storing an access policy;
- b) means for receiving a service request indicating an identity of a user;
- c) means for determining whether said service request violates said access policy based on said identity;
- d) means for determining whether resources of said network necessary for carrying out said service request are available; and
- e) provided said service request is permissible and provided said resources necessary for carrying out said service request are available, means

for causing respective ones of said different types of consumer electronic devices to carry out said service request.

Claim 22 has been amended as follows:

22. (Amended) A home server as recited in Claim 21 wherein said resources comprise hard resources and soft resources, and wherein said hard resources comprise said different types [plurality] of consumer electronic devices and wherein said soft resources comprise content information accessible by said different types [plurality] of consumer electronic devices.